



STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Review of the Fiji Sports Council 2017 - 2018 Annual Report



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the report of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs on the review of *Fiji Sports Council August 2017-July 2018 Annual Report*. This review was undertaken in accordance with Standing Order (SO) 109 (2) (b) which mandates the committee to look into issues related to health, education, social services, labour, culture and media.

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs of the last term of Parliament was referred the *Fiji Sports Council August 2017-July 2018 Annual Report*. In this new term of Parliament, the Annual Report was re-introduced and referred to the current Standing Committee. As per the normal process for scrutiny, the Committee was mandated by Parliament to review the Annual Report and report back on its findings. This report will build on the work compiled by the previous Committee in reviewing and highlighting the contents of the Annual Report.

The committee noted that there were achievements in the 2017-2018 financial year, the most memorable one which had the greatest long-term impact was the commissioning of the new Fiji Sports Council Head Office and the re-opening of the refurbished FMF Gymnasium. Further to this, government supported redevelopment of the Vodafone Arena which began in March 2018. Following the renovations, the Vodafone Arena is the first venue in Fiji to assist weightlifting Fiji in hosting the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Junior Championship. It was also noted, the Netball Fiji won the bid to host the World Youth Championship in 2022 this did not eventuate due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Furthermore, with the Councils transformation taking place it proudly contributes to the health and well-being of all Fijians, by providing venues and facilities for sport and active recreational activities that bring people from all walks of life together, as through sports, stronger bonds can be formed.

On the outset, I would like to acknowledge:

- Firstly, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs in the last term of Parliament for their efforts and input which has greatly assisted our Committee in the completion of this report;
- Secondly, the Honourable Members of the current Standing Committee, the secretariat and other support staff for their valuable input and support; and
- Last but not the least my sincere gratitude to the former Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji Sports Council and staff for their timely assistance in the review process.

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, I commend this Report to Parliament and request all members of this August House to take note of the Report.



.....
Hon. Alitia Bainivalu
Chairperson

ACRONYM

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Acronym | |
| FSC | Fiji Sports Council |
| MOU | Memorandum of Understanding |
| MP | Member of Parliament |
| FMF Gymnasium | Flour Mills of Fiji Gymnasium |
| SO | Standing Order |

COMMITTEE REMIT AND MEMBERS

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs (**‘Committee’**) is established under Section 70 of the Constitution and SO 109. The Committee’s mandate and functions are provided under SO 109 (2) and 110 (1) (a)-(d) & (f). The Committee consist of the following members:



Chairperson

Hon. Alitia Bainivalu MP
Government Member



Deputy Chairperson

Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure MP
Government Member



Member

Hon. Sashi Kiran MP
Government Member



Member

Hon. Viam Pillay MP
Opposition Member



Member

Hon. Parveen Kumar Bala MP
Opposition Member

RECOMMENDATION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs conducted the review of *Fiji Sports Council August 2017-July 2018 Annual Report* and recommends that Parliament take note of this report.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Social Affairs ('Committee') of the 2018-2022 Parliament was referred the *Fiji Sports Council August 2017-July 2018 Annual Report* on the 1st of September 2022, as pursuant to SO 38 (2). The Committee was mandated to review the Annual Report and table its findings back to Parliament. This did not eventuate as dissolution of Parliament was in effect from 30th of October 2022.

Therefore, the Annual Report was reinstated on 13th of February 2023 and referred to the current Standing Committee to review the report as mandated in SO 110 (1) (c).

1.1. Committee Procedure

The major work of report scrutiny was undertaken by the Standing Committee of the previous Parliament term (2018-2022). Deliberation and formulation of questions pertaining to the *Fiji Sports Council August 2017-July 2018 Annual Report* were undertaken. Following this, the Council's executive management presented on the responses. Upon receipt of all relevant information, the current committee compiled its findings and subsequently endorsed it on 8th of September 2023.

The previous Committee received written response from the Fiji Sports Council for this review. The response is available on the Parliament website, at the following link: <https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>

2. FIJI SPORTS COUNCIL

2.1. Background

The Fiji Sports Council is responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, and delivering high-quality venues and facilities for sports at all levels, from high-performance athletes to community recreational activities. The Council has more than delivered on its promise with the official opening of its head office and FMF Gymnasium complex in January 2018.

The Fiji Sports Council emphasizes the social and economic importance of sports in Fiji through modern sporting facilities that are now beginning to be established around the country, particularly

in rural areas. Through key investments and support from the government, more young people are beginning to see sports as a serious career path.

3. KEY FINDINGS

Below are the key findings that the committee compiled through its deliberation and review:

- 3.1 The challenge is the acquisition of available land and accessing funds for the development of a potential sports facility;
- 3.2 There were seven (7) non-financially viable venues that the Council turned into profit-making venues; and

| No. | Venue | Remarks |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Victoria Tennis Courts | Only Tennis allowed· permitted Futsal and Netball from 2019 to increase revenue |
| 2 | Damodar City Aquatic Centre | Continuous promotion of Programs to bring in income - Mums & Bubs program, Learn to Swim, permit vendor to setup shop. This venue continues to make a loss regardless due to operating expenses required to keep it working e.g., pump room maintenance, chlorine, lights etc. |
| 3 | National Beach Courts | Designed packages at \$10 minimum rate and promoted for business house fun days |
| 4 | Veivadravadra | Maintained as a Turf Nursery for major grounds therefore heavy maintenance costs involved in the upkeep. |
| 5 | Ra Sports Ground | Seeking stakeholder to sign MOU with FSC to take on sub lease of Ra Sports Ground |
| 6 | National Sailing Centre | Signed agreement with National Yachting Association who have requested to sublease the venue and pay rental to FSC |
| 7 | Lawaqa Park | Seeking stakeholder to sign MOU with FSC to take on sub lease of Lawaqa Park. |

- 3.3 The council carried out an audit of all venues to allow management to compile a report and budget for the upgrading of sporting venues to be more inclusive and leaving no one behind.

4. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee recommends that the Council:






- 4.1. Ensures timely submission of its annual reports;
- 4.2. Strengthens its internal control procedures to avoid and minimize loss of money; and
- 4.3. Builds and enhance its participation on Public Private Partnership for proper execution of sporting development projects.

5. CONCLUSION

The committee fulfilled its mandate to review the 2017-2018 Annual Report of the Fiji Sports Council. In this review report, the committee highlighted various areas that needs to be strengthened by the Council and relevant recommendations formulated for resolution.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' E-SIGNATURE

We, the Members of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, hereby agree with the contents of this report:

| Committee Member | E-Signature |
|--|--|
| Hon. Alitia Bainivalu Chairperson |  |
| Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure Deputy Chairperson |  |
| Hon. Sashi Kiran Member |  |
| Hon. Viam Pillay Member |  |
| Hon. Parveen Bala Member |  |
| Date: 8 th September 2023 | |

APPENDICES

Published evidence

Written evidence, transcripts and supporting documents can be viewed on the Parliament website at the following link:

<https://www.parliament.gov.fj/committees/standing-committee-on-social-affairs/>